

October 4, 2006

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Mayor Chávez Calls for Pardon of Hydrogen

Modern Science at Sandia Labs Has Concluded Element Was Framed for Hindenburg

Albuquerque – Mayor Martin J. Chávez today called on the state’s and nation’s Chief Executives to consider a pardon for the element Hydrogen, which modern science has concluded was not the cause of the Hindenburg disaster.

The Mayor issued his call in the form of a proclamation at the National Hydrogen Association’s first Renewables to Hydrogen conference, being held at the Marriott Pyramid today and tomorrow.

“Hydrogen was wrongfully convicted in the court of public opinion,” said Chávez. “Critics all too often resort to mischaracterization of Hydrogen’s safety properties by making dismissive references to ‘Hindenburg,’ but with its good name restored, Hydrogen stands to do so much for our civilization as we work collaboratively toward our sustainable energy future.”

An article in Sandia’s *Lab News* from March 31 of this year was headlined, “oh the humanity, Hydrogen had no significant role in Hindenburg disaster.” The article, written by Will Keener, states in part, “Although there was speculation early on that hydrogen was not the key culprit in the Hindenburg fire, it was research by retired NASA scientist Addison Bain that showed definitively that hydrogen had no significant role.”

Key findings included the following:

The Airship did not explode, but burned in expanding patterns;

The ship sank slowly to the ground with the aft section burning and sinking faster than the nose, which likely still contained hydrogen;

The bright flame color seen by witnesses indicates another likely source of the fire, which Bain suggested was the bright paint and fabric used on the aircraft; and

The powdered aluminum used in a varnish applied to the fabric formed compounds with burning characteristics comparable to those used in modern solid rocket fuels.

“As usual, our labs are providing the science that will make for a better tomorrow,” said Chávez. “It remains only for the political reality to catch up so that we can go forward with one less ‘urban legend’ in our way.”

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